

What is claimed is:

1. A portable terminal for transmitting and receiving information comprising:  
a main body;

5 an image pickup unit having an optical system and an image pickup element,  
for picking up an image of a subject; and

a pivot mechanism for supporting said image pickup unit, said image pickup  
unit being allowed to freely pivot centered on at least two axes with respect to said  
main body.

10 2. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein said image pickup unit  
is virtually housed into said main body.

3. The portable terminal according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 a driving section for allowing said image pickup unit to pivot centered on at  
least two axes; and

an input section for receiving inputs of at least two parameters as operation  
inputs of a pivotal operation of said image pickup unit.

20 4. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein said image pickup unit  
is directed to a front face side and a rear face side of said main body.

5. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein said image pickup unit  
is allowed to pivot centered on an axis parallel to a light axis of said optical system  
25 by said pivot mechanism.

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6. The portable terminal according to claim 1, further comprising:

a switching section for switching operation modes between an image pickup mode for allowing said input section to receive said operation inputs with respect to  
5 said image pickup unit and a communication mode for allowing said input section to receive an operation input related to information communication.

7. The portable terminal according to claim 1, wherein two pairs of said image pickup units and said pivot mechanisms are installed.

8. The portable terminal according to claim 3, further comprising:

a section for detecting a position of a specific subject in said image; and

a section for controlling said driving section so as to place said specific subject virtually in a center of said image.

9. The portable terminal according to claim 3, wherein:

said input section comprises:

a disc-shaped rotation member that is rotatively driven;

a section for detecting an amount of rotation of said rotation member;

a section for detecting a force in a first direction given to said rotation member; and

a section for detecting a force in a second direction given to said rotation member,

wherein two parameters included in said at least two parameters are inputted as

said amount of rotation detected together with a detection of said force in said first

direction and as said amount of rotation detected together with a detection of said force in said second direction.

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